

NATIONAL PUNCTUATION DAY

http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/09/national_punctuation_day.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

National Punctuation Day is a very important holiday for teachers and students of English. In fact, anyone who writes in English should celebrate this day. Few of us feel we are experts at the small marks that make up the English punctuation system. The day was founded in 2004 by Jeff Rubin, a former journalist. He wanted to draw attention to the importance of proper punctuation and to promote good writing skills. He said: "Successful people have good communication skills, and that includes knowing how to write properly." He added: "I'm stunned at how many executives and CEOs send me articles and correspondence that are poorly written and punctuated...Magazines and newspapers routinely make punctuation errors."

Punctuation is everything in a written language except the actual letters or numbers. Punctuation marks and other things like spaces and indents help the reader understand the structure and organization of writing. Punctuation rules are different in every language. The oldest document containing punctuation dates back to the 9th century BC. English punctuation developed when large numbers of Bibles were produced. A standardized punctuation system emerged after the invention of the printing press. Many purists believe punctuation is under threat today. They say that the emergence of text messaging is killing off commas, colons and apostrophes. People are in too much of a hurry to bother with correct punctuation.

PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. a very important holiday for | <i>a.</i> are experts |
| 2. Few of us feel we | <i>b.</i> of proper punctuation |
| 3. draw attention to the importance | <i>c.</i> to write properly |
| 4. Successful people have good | <i>d.</i> teachers and students |
| 5. knowing how | <i>e.</i> punctuation errors |
| 6. newspapers routinely make | <i>f.</i> communication skills |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Punctuation marks and other | <i>a.</i> the structure |
| 2. help the reader understand | <i>b.</i> back to the 9th century BC |
| 3. Punctuation rules are different | <i>c.</i> much of a hurry |
| 4. punctuation dates | <i>d.</i> things like spaces |
| 5. A standardized punctuation | <i>e.</i> in every language |
| 6. People are in too | <i>f.</i> system emerge |

LISTENING GAP FILL

National Punctuation Day is a very important holiday for teachers and students of English. In fact, _____ English should celebrate this day. Few of us feel we are experts at the small _____ the English punctuation system. The day was founded in 2004 by Jeff Rubin, a former journalist. He wanted _____ the importance of proper punctuation and to promote good writing skills. He said: "Successful people have good communication skills, _____ knowing how to write properly." He added: "I'm _____ executives and CEOs send me articles and correspondence that _____ punctuated...Magazines and newspapers routinely make punctuation errors."

Punctuation is everything in a written language _____ letters or numbers. Punctuation marks and other things like _____ help the reader understand the structure and organization of writing. Punctuation rules are different in every language. The oldest document containing punctuation _____ 9th century BC. English punctuation developed when large numbers of Bibles were produced. A standardized punctuation _____ the invention of the printing press. Many purists believe punctuation _____. They say that the emergence of text messaging is killing off commas, colons and apostrophes. People are _____ to bother with correct punctuation.

WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

National Punctuation Day is a very important holiday for teachers and students of English. In _____, anyone who writes in English should celebrate this day. Few of us feel we are _____ at the small marks that make up the English punctuation system. The day was _____ in 2004 by Jeff Rubin, a former journalist. He wanted to draw attention to the importance of _____ punctuation and to promote good writing skills. He said: "Successful people have good communication skills, and that includes knowing how to write _____." He added: "I'm _____ at how many executives and CEOs send me articles and correspondence that are _____ written and punctuated...Magazines and newspapers routinely make punctuation _____."

experts

poorly

fact

properly

errors

founded

stunned

proper

Punctuation is everything in a written language _____ the actual letters or numbers. Punctuation _____ and other things like spaces and indents help the reader understand the structure and organization of writing. Punctuation _____ are different in every language. The oldest document containing punctuation _____ back to the 9th century BC. English punctuation developed when large _____ of Bibles were produced. A standardized punctuation system emerged after the _____ of the printing press. Many purists believe punctuation is under _____ today. They say that the emergence of text messaging is killing off commas, colons and apostrophes. People are in too much of a hurry to _____ with correct punctuation.

dates

invention

bother

marks

except

rules

threat

numbers

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

National Punctuation Day is a *very / too* important holiday for teachers and students of English. In *fact / fiction*, anyone who writes in English should celebrate this day. *Few / Little* of us feel we are experts at the small marks that make up the English punctuation system. The *date / day* was founded in 2004 by Jeff Rubin, a former journalist. He wanted to *draw / write* attention to the importance of *properly / proper* punctuation and to *promotion / promote* good writing skills. He said: "Successful people have good communication skills, and that includes knowing how to write properly." He added: "I'm stunned *as / at* how many executives and CEOs send me *article / articles* and correspondence that are poorly *written / writing* and punctuated...Magazines and newspapers routinely make punctuation errors."

Punctuation is everything *on / in* a written language except the actual letters or numbers. Punctuation marks and other things like spaces and *indents / dents* help the reader understand the structure and *organization / organize* of writing. Punctuation rules are different in every language. The oldest document containing punctuation *years / dates* back to the 9th century *BC / CB*. English punctuation developed when large *numerals / numbers* of Bibles were produced. A standardized punctuation system emerged after the invention of the *printed / printing* press. Many purists believe punctuation is *over / under* threat today. They say that the emergence of text messaging is killing *off / on* commas, colons and apostrophes. People are in too much of a hurry to bother *for / with* correct punctuation.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

National Punctuation Day is a very (1) _____ holiday for teachers and students of English. In fact, anyone who writes in English should celebrate this day. (2) _____ of us feel we are experts at the small marks that make up the English punctuation system. The day was founded in 2004 by Jeff Rubin, a former journalist. He wanted to (3) _____ attention to the importance of proper punctuation and to promote good writing skills. He said: "Successful people have good communication (4) _____, and that includes knowing how to write properly." He added: "I'm (5) _____ at how many executives and CEOs send me articles and correspondence that are (6) _____ written and punctuated...Magazines and newspapers routinely make punctuation errors."

Punctuation is everything in a written language (7) _____ the actual letters or numbers. Punctuation marks and other things like spaces and indents help the reader understand the (8) _____ and organization of writing. Punctuation rules are different in every language. The oldest document containing punctuation dates (9) _____ to the 9th century BC. English punctuation developed when large (10) _____ of Bibles were produced. A standardized punctuation system emerged after the invention of the printing press. Many purists believe punctuation is (11) _____ threat today. They say that the emergence of text messaging is killing off commas, colons and apostrophes. People are in too (12) _____ of a hurry to bother with correct punctuation.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) importance | (b) importantly | (c) imports | (d) important |
| 2. | (a) Few | (b) Two | (c) Several | (d) Various |
| 3. | (a) paint | (b) draw | (c) sketch | (d) doodle |
| 4. | (a) skill | (b) skillful | (c) skills | (d) skillfully |
| 5. | (a) stunning | (b) stunner | (c) stunned | (d) stun |
| 6. | (a) poverty | (b) poor | (c) poorness | (d) poorly |
| 7. | (a) expect | (b) except | (c) aspect | (d) accept |
| 8. | (a) structure | (b) structured | (c) structural | (d) structuring |
| 9. | (a) front | (b) side | (c) top | (d) back |
| 10. | (a) numerals | (b) numbers | (c) figures | (d) characters |
| 11. | (a) over | (b) on | (c) under | (d) in |
| 12. | (a) much | (b) many | (c) most | (d) more |

SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. a very iarntptmo holiday
2. Few of us feel we are eesrtpx
3. a ormef journalist
4. opmroet good writing skills
5. orypol written
6. make punctuation sreror

Paragraph 2

7. the ataulc letters or numbers
8. the rcttsurue and organization of writing
9. dates back to the 9th nuryetc BC
10. large nmbesur of Bibles were produced
11. the invention of the tgprniin press
12. in too much of a rhury

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () Punctuation is everything in a written language except the actual letters or numbers. Punctuation marks and other
- () have good communication skills, and that includes knowing how to write properly." He added: "I'm stunned
- () punctuation system emerged after the invention of the printing press. Many purists believe punctuation is under
- () in English should celebrate this day. Few of us feel we are experts at the small marks that make up the English punctuation
- () colons and apostrophes. People are in too much of a hurry to bother with correct punctuation.
- () things like spaces and indents help the reader understand the structure and organization of writing. Punctuation rules are
- () different in every language. The oldest document containing punctuation dates back to the 9th
- () written and punctuated...Magazines and newspapers routinely make punctuation errors."
- (**1**) National Punctuation Day is a very important holiday for teachers and students of English. In fact, anyone who writes
- () attention to the importance of proper punctuation and to promote good writing skills. He said: "Successful people
- () threat today. They say that the emergence of text messaging is killing off commas,
- () century BC. English punctuation developed when large numbers of Bibles were produced. A standardized
- () system. The day was founded in 2004 by Jeff Rubin, a former journalist. He wanted to draw
- () at how many executives and CEOs send me articles and correspondence that are poorly

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. who Anyone celebrate should English in writes.

2. we feel us of Few experts are.

3. attention proper to punctuation the importance Draw of.

4. people good skills Successful have communication.

5. make routinely Newspapers errors punctuation.

6. other and marks Punctuation spaces like things.

7. understand structure Help reader the the.

8. language every in different are rules Punctuation.

9. A emerged system punctuation standardized.

10. of a hurry to bother People are in too much.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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THE NATIONAL PUNCTUATION DAY SURVEY

Write five questions about National Punctuation Day in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about National Punctuation Day. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about National Punctuation Day. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. POSTER: Make your own poster about National Punctuation Day. Write about will happen on this day around the world.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.